

27. (Twice Amended) The interactive filter selective mechanism of claim 20, wherein the filters are editable filters.

30. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the first and second lists of program/event entries are not provided with the television program listings.

31. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the first and second lists of program/event entries are not provided with the television program listings.

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 8-12, 14-21, 24-27 and 30-31 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4, 8-9, 11-12, 14-15, 17-20, 24-25, 27, and 30-31 have been amended.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The claims, claim 9 in particular, have been amended to obviate the drawing objection.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, alleging that "a first memory," "a second memory," and "a third memory" were not specifically described in the specification. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Applicant submits that these elements are fully supported by the application as filed. However, amendments have been made to clarify the claims to make clear what is considered to be inherent in the unamended claims, thereby obviating the rejection.

Claims 1-4, 8-12, 14-21, and 24-27, and 30-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by White et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,596,373). Applicant submits that all of the pending claims in the application are patentable over the references of record, and

reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended the claims to have a scope similar to the claims submitted in Applicant's preliminary amendment of March 2, 2001. Accordingly, Applicant is responding to both the rejections made in the pending Office action dated June 19, 2002 and also the remarks made by the Examiner in the Final rejection dated December 18, 2001.

Each of the amended independent claims 1 and 9 includes the limitations of utilizing a first filter to select a subset of the plurality of program/event entries, wherein the first filter comprises a list of program/event entries. Each of the amended independent claims 17 and 20 includes the limitations of a first program filter comprising a first list of program/event entries and a second program filter comprising a second list of program/event entries and the filtering of programs using the first program filter and the second program filter.

In contrast, White discloses a search engine for identifying programs stored in an electronic program guide. The user selects a category and subcategory from selection screens to retrieve a program list. "Once the user has selected the categories, the system responds by searching the program data to find those programs that are defined in that category" (Col. 7, lns. 28-30). For example, the user may select from categories such as sports, news, or shopping. The cited categories and subcategories are search fields used to query individual program data entries from memory. The categories and subcategories of each of the program data blocks is searched using a conventional computer search engine. A program list resulting from the search is then displayed to the user.

White fails to teach or disclose a method for managing television program listings utilizing a first filter to select a subset of the plurality of program/event entries, wherein the first filter comprises

a list of program/event entries. Instead, White describes a search engine where each of the category and subcategory selections is a search criteria. The categories and subcategories are descriptive terms that broadly identify a particular type of show. A data field for each television show in White will be marked as being included in a certain category or subcategory. However, the categories and subcategories do not identify any specific program/event entries, but rather are only general search terms that are used to identify multiple program/event entries that match the category or subcategory. Thus, a search will generate a list of all shows that are included in the specified category and/or subcategory. The present invention, however, uses a filter comprising "a list of program/event entries," not merely generic search terms. This list of program/event entries is used to select a subset of the plurality of program/event entries that is included in an electronic program guide. Using a list of program/event entries to generate an electronic program guide is substantially different from the descriptive term search engine disclosed in White. Therefore, White entirely fails to disclose using a first filter to select one of the plurality of predetermined subsets of television programs. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 9, 17, and 20 and their respective dependent claims are not anticipated by White.

Regarding the Examiner's rejections in the Final Office action dated December 18, 2001, the presently claimed invention is neither taught nor disclosed by Watts (U.S. Patent No. 5,671,411).

Watts is directed to a search engine for searching a database of television program schedule information that incorporates a method for visually creating search queries on a display screen (see col. 1, ln. 59-col. 2, ln. 8). Logical operators, such as AND, OR, NOT, etc., are associated with the search criteria so that users may perform database searches without extensive knowledge of databases. Specific criteria disclosed in Watts include stations, days of the week, names, time of day, and special criteria.

In the Final Office action dated December 18, 2001, the Examiner maintained that Watts discloses the presently claimed invention. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the scope of the pending claims has not been fully appreciated. The Examiner cited Col. 3, lines 13-20; 44-55 and Col. 4, lines 52-59 in stating that "a list of visual programs satisfying the desired criteria is displayed on the TV browser." However, this list of visual programs in Watts is a search result. One or more words are entered as search criteria to generate this search result. In contrast, the present invention uses a list of program/event entries "to select a subset of the plurality of program/event entries." The list in Watts is only a search result displayed to the user, and it is not utilized to select a subset of program/event entries. Applicant respectfully submits that Watts does not disclose every element as set forth in the claims as amended. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 9, 17, and 20 and their respective dependent claims are not anticipated by White.

Accordingly, the independent claims 1, 9, 17 and 20 define a novel and unobvious invention over the cited references. Thus, the above-mentioned independent claims and dependent claims 2-4, 8, 10-12, 14-16, 18-19, 21, 24-27, and 30-31, which depend on the independent claims, are patentable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Application No. 09/060,343

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

1. (Fourth Amended) A method for managing television program listings comprising:

storing available program listings [~~grouped in a plurality of predetermined subsets of television programs~~] in one or more databases , the program listings comprising a plurality of program/event entries;

utilizing a first filter [~~to select one of the plurality of predetermined subsets of television programs~~] to select a subset of the plurality of program/event entries, wherein the first filter comprises a list of program/event entries;

generating an electronic program guide including [~~television program listings in said selected subset~~] the subset of program/event entries; and

displaying the generated electronic program guide on a display.

2. (Fourth Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
utilizing [~~said first filter and~~] a second filter [~~for selecting~~] to select a second subset of the plurality of [predetermined subsets of television programs to] program/event entries;

utilizing the first filter and the second filter to generate the electronic program guide [displaying] including [television program listings including] all of the [programs] program/event entries included in said first subset and all of the [programs] program/event entries included in said second subset.

3. (Fourth Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
utilizing said first filter and said second filter, wherein at least some of the [~~television programs~~] program/event entries of the first subset are the same as at least some of the [~~television~~

~~programs]~~ program/event entries of the second subset, ~~[with the second filter, and]~~ to generate the electronic program guide displaying television program listings including ~~[programs]~~ program/event entries included in both said first subset and said second ~~[subsets]~~ subset.

4. (Fourth Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
creating ~~[a]~~ the first filter utilizing a list of program/event entries in the program listing database.

8. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein a consumer device stores the television program listings and the first filter is input into the consumer device from a source external to the consumer device.

9. (Thrice Amended) A system for managing television program listings comprising:

a ~~[first]~~ memory for storing a database of available television program listings ~~[grouped in a plurality of predetermined subsets of television programs]~~ comprising a plurality of program/event entries [7], the memory further configured for storing a first filter and a second filter,

~~[a second memory for storing a]~~ the first filter comprising a first list of ~~[one of the plurality of predetermined subsets of television programs,]~~ program/event entries, and the

~~[a third memory for storing a]~~ second filter comprising a second list of ~~[one of the plurality of predetermined subsets of television programs]~~ program/event entries; and

a processor which selects a first subset of programs according to the first filter and a second subset of programs according to the second filter to generate an electronic program guide displaying television program listings included in said first subset and said second subset,

wherein at least some of the programs in the first subset are different from the programs of the second subset, and at least some of the programs in the second subset are different from the programs of the first subset.

11. (Thrice Amended) The system of claim 9 wherein the processor is further configured to utilize said first filter and said second filter, wherein at least some of the programs of the first filter are the same as at least some of the programs of the second filter, and to generate an electronic program guide displaying television program listings including programs included in both said first subset and said second [subsets] subset.

12. (Thrice Amended) The system of claim 9 wherein the processor is further configured to create [a] the first filter utilizing a [~~new subset of the stored~~] list of program/event entries in [television program listing] the database.

14. (Thrice Amended) The system of claim 9 wherein a set of [~~television programs~~] program/event entries corresponding to the first and second lists intersects a set of [~~television programs~~] program/event entries corresponding to the [~~stored~~] database of available television program listings.

15. (Thrice Amended) The system of claim 14 wherein the set of [~~television programs~~] program/event entries corresponding to the first and second lists is a proper subset of the set of [~~television programs~~] the program/event entries corresponding to the [~~stored~~] database of available television program listings.

17. (Thrice Amended) A method for managing television program listings comprising the steps of:

storing a database of available television program listings comprising a plurality of program/event entries;

displaying a user configuration screen having a plurality of program/event sources[, ~~each program/event source having a predetermined subset of television programs~~], a first program filter comprising a first list of [~~predetermined subset of television programs~~] program/event entries and a second program filter comprising a second list of [~~predetermined subset of television programs~~] program/event entries;

selecting at least one of the plurality of program/event sources, the first program filter and the second program filter from the user configuration screen;

[~~selecting the first list of predetermined subset of television programs~~] filtering programs of the at least one of the plurality of program/event sources utilizing the first program filter to produce a first subset of programs;

[~~selecting the second list of predetermined subset of television programs~~] filtering programs of the at least one of the plurality of program/event sources utilizing the second program filter to produce a second subset of programs; and

generating an electronic program guide displaying television program listings included in said first [~~predetermined~~] subset and said second [~~predetermined~~] subset, wherein at least some of the programs of the first [~~predetermined~~] subset are different from the programs of the second [~~predetermined~~] subset, and wherein at least some of the programs of the second [~~predetermined~~] subset are different from the programs of the first [~~predetermined~~] subset.

18. (Thrice Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the electronic program guide displays television program listings including all of the programs included in said first [~~predetermined~~] subset and all of the programs included in said second [~~predetermined~~] subset.

19. (Thrice Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein at least some of the programs in the first and second [~~predetermined~~] subsets are the same, wherein the first and second lists of program/event entries intersect, and wherein the electronic program guide displays television program listings consisting of programs produced in both said first and second [~~predetermined~~] subsets.

20. (Thrice Amended) An interactive filter selective mechanism of available television program listings comprising:

- a database of available television program listings comprising a plurality of program/event entries;

- a plurality of program/event sources, each program/event source having a predetermined subset of television programs;

- a first program filter comprising a first list of [~~predetermined subset of television programs~~] program/event entries that filters the plurality of program/event sources to produce a first subset of programs;

- a second program filter comprising a second list of [~~predetermined subset of television programs~~] program/event entries that filters at least one of the plurality of program/event sources and the first subset of programs to produce a second subset of programs;

- a selection of program listing sources including the plurality of program/event sources, the first subset of programs, and the second subset of programs;

- a user configuration screen having a display of the selection of program listing sources, wherein a user selects at least one of the plurality of program/event sources, the first program filter and the second program filter from the user configuration screen; and

- an electronic program guide displaying programs included in said first subset and said second subset.

24. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1 ₁ wherein the ~~[predetermined subsets of television programs]~~ filters are editable filters.

25. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the ~~[predetermined subsets of television programs]~~ filters are editable filters.

27. (Twice Amended) The interactive filter selective mechanism of claim 20₁ wherein the filters are editable filters.

30. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 17 ₁ wherein the first and second lists of ~~[predetermined subset of television programs]~~ program/event entries are not provided with the television program listings.

31. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 20 ₁ wherein the first and second lists of ~~[predetermined subset of television programs]~~ program/event entries are not provided with the television program listings.